

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Minutes**  
**September 24, 2018**  
**Report 18-31**

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:30 pm. The meeting was held in the media center located at Owosso High School, 765 E. North Street, Owosso, Michigan.

Present: Jenc, Keyes, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Paez  
Absent: Webster (Motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not include Webster)

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Building Reports**

Owosso High School Principal Jeff Phillips welcomed the 2018-2019 foreign exchange students to the meeting. He also thanked the host families for welcoming these students into their homes. Mr. Phillips explained that his staff has really enjoyed having the students in their building and believes that Owosso High School students benefit from the experience as well. The student introductions included Rafael Franco from Brazil and his host parents Sally and Roy Thelen. Gloria Perez-Pardo Gonzales from Spain, who is residing with host family Rebecca and Todd Donehoo. Anny Vitoria Dutra Dos Anjos from Brazil and her host parents Jennifer and Keith Passow. Kiho Sekine from Japan and her host parent Phyliss Hickmott. Mr. Phillips informed the Board that the high school will continue to host monthly luncheons prepared by the District's Food Service Department that will feature dishes from each student's home country. The first luncheon is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup> and Anny Vitoria Dutra Dos Anjos favorite dishes from Brazil will be served.

Mr. Phillips asked the foreign exchange students to reflect on their journey to Owosso and share something that they did not anticipate prior to their arrival. One student commented that they are required to wear uniforms in her country and she likes the freedom of expressing herself by wearing what she wants at OHS. The students also remarked that they do not have homecoming or prom at their school. In addition, they stated that school days starts much earlier in their home country.

Board of Education Student Representative Carson Bornefeld introduced himself to the Board of Education. Carson informed the Board that he is the President of Student Government at Owosso High School. He explained that Student Government has been working on the *#what's your 17?* initiative, which originated from the Parkland, Florida school shooting and 17 students were killed. The initiative began during the previous school year as a means to raise awareness among students. Posters have been randomly placed around the school promoting kindness and relationships. Examples of the kindness and relationship building activities were shared by Carson.

Carson Bornefeld reported that the 2018 Homecoming Court will be announced on Friday, September 28. He announced that Spirit Week will begin on October 8 with a California Dreaming theme, October 9 is Vegas Baby, October 10 is New York State of Mind, October 11 will be Everything is Bigger in Texas, and October 12 is Blue and Gold day. The annual Powder Puff game will be sponsored by the National Honor Society and held on October 10. Carson stated that Student Council will also participate in float building for this year's Homecoming.

Carson Bornefeld presented information on an idea that was shared with the high school administration by OHS seniors Garrett Hoag and Andrew Beckley proposed. The idea allows students to show their school spirit by purchasing their own parking space that they can personalize with chalk, paint, etc.

Superintendent Tuttle applauded Carson Bornefeld and Maddie Krantz for doing a phenomenal job of boosting school spirit in the student section at home football games.

Trojan Marching Band Director's Jillian Kowalczyk and Jordan Sterk presented an example of the newly purchased marching band uniforms. Mrs. Kowalczyk remarked that they are looking forward to having student's wear the new uniforms at Band Festival on October 8<sup>th</sup> and homecoming on October 12<sup>th</sup>. She explained that administrators and Band Boosters spent approximately two and one-half years exploring various prototypes and options prior to selecting the uniforms. The current TMB uniforms will be passed down to freshmen and the freshmen uniforms will be sold or turned into keepsakes through fundraising. Mrs. Kowalczyk informed the Board that the purchase of the uniforms was made possible through many years of fundraising, annual contributions from the Band Boosters, and a very generous anonymous donation. The total costs for the marching band uniforms was approximately \$100,000 and the concert band uniforms were about \$50,000. Mrs. Kowalczyk remarked that through the years, students have taken very good care of their uniforms and have gotten 25-30 years of wear for the District. New majorette uniforms are also being created by local seamstress Donna Nault.

Superintendent Tuttle remarked that a lot of time was spent selecting the new band uniforms because of the expense and the fact that they are used for 25-30 years. The uniforms are very well made and have been taken care of by students, parents, and the band directors.

### **Board Correspondence**

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported that the Blue and Gold After-School program is off to a great start under the leadership of Mrs. Jayne Brown. Students are able to take advantage of these opportunities outside of the district and within. Offsite options include DeVries Nature Conservancy, Fortitude, and the roller skating rink. In addition to book clubs, board games, and disc golf. Mrs. Brown continues to explore additional opportunities for kids. All of the after-school programs are completely full. Superintendent Tuttle reminded the Board that the After-School program was introduced for students that may not have an opportunity to participate in activities outside of school or cannot afford to. The programs typically cost \$5 to participate and are ran by volunteers. Transportation Director Steve DeLong was praised by Superintendent Tuttle for graciously providing transportation to the programs. She also thanked elementary principals for their assistance in organizing the programs and getting students involved.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that nearly 40 high school students are involved in the Peer to Peer program. The students are matched with a peer mentor and participate in a variety of activities. Most recently, the students traveled to the GISD Base Camp Challenge Center to take part in team building and social skills.

Superintendent Tuttle referenced Carson Bornefelds's report about the high school parking lot spaces that will be personalized by students. The parking spots will be completed by students over the upcoming weekend. Superintendent Tuttle remarked that she is pleased to know that administrators listen to students and their creative ideas.

Superintendent Tuttle stated that Athletic Director Dr. Dallas Lintner will take 15 sophomores to a sportsmanship summit on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Students were selected by their coaches to participate in the leadership conference hosted by the Flint Metro League.

Superintendent Tuttle commented on how proud she is of the Salute Our Soldiers Veteran's Tribute that took place during the September 21<sup>st</sup> varsity football game. The special tribute was an opportunity for students and the community to thank the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces. Coach Devin Pringle, Dr. Dallas Lintner, Jeff Phillips, Karen Van Epps, Lori and Dave Rowlison, John Klapko and the Maintenance Department, Michele Prince and the Food Service Department, and Jessica Thompson were all thanked for making the event a huge success. All veterans received free entry into the game and were welcomed to a hospitality tent under the scoreboard for a meal served by principals. The varsity football team wore special jerseys for the game which were sponsored by community members. T-shirts were also available for purchase and all proceeds were donated to support local veterans.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the Owosso Cares Food Backpack program is in its seventh year of providing food for students in need. To date, almost 22,000 bags of food have been distributed to OPS students that may go without a meal. Several volunteers have assisted over the years with the program.

Superintendent Tuttle thanked Liaison Officer Mike Ash for going above and beyond with his responsibilities by building relationships with students.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that the District's bus drivers attended a bus driver safety event at Bryant Elementary School. Bus safety, precautions, and rules were shared to make students more aware of the expectations that keep them safe.

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that the District will begin marketing the middle school to see if there is any interest in purchasing the building. She stated that WODA is exploring historical grants for the building. In addition, two other groups have expressed an interest in the building. In fairness to the community, the District would like to get the best price in addition to concerns about who will ultimately inhabit the building.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that after the meeting, the Board of Education will tour the Precision Electric building as a potential new home for the Transportation Department. The current location of the Transportation Department is in a flood plain and it does not have a lift for the bus mechanic. She stated that the District has received interest in the current transportation facility location.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that all OHS English 10 students will participate in a debate unit later in the fall. The Sherman Douglas debate format will be used by English Department staff members.

Mr. Steve Brooks announced that September 28<sup>th</sup> is a half-day of school for all students. Teachers will participate in professional development during the afternoon. Department and grade level teams will work on their teacher evaluations and units. Teachers will also be analyzing their pre-assessment data. Mr. Brooks remarked that he is confident that teacher teams will feel very comfortable once they delve into their baseline data. Owosso Public Schools continues to be leaders in the county in analyzing assessment data.

Mr. Steve Brooks informed the Board that students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade have started taking the North West Education Assessment (NWEA) online assessment in the subject areas of reading, language, mathematics and science. The assessment mirrors the M-STEP which is administered in the spring. Mr. Brooks remarked that students receive their NWEA scores immediately after taking the tests. The assessment also sets target goals for the students based on their results.

Mr. Steve Brooks reported that 14 students have enrolled in the District's welding program. One of the students is now certified and is receiving job offers in this field. Mr. Brooks expressed his sincere gratitude to Board President Tim Jenc, Crest Marine and those that made the welding program possible.

### **Public Participation**

President Jenc stated that the Board of Education is a public body and recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues. Time has been included in the meeting's agenda for public participation. Members of the audience were reminded that they should announce their name and group affiliation when applicable and to limit their participation time to three minutes or less. Comments should be directed to the Board and be relevant to the business of the Board of Education. This is not an opportunity for dialogue with the Board of Education. The rules of common courtesy should also be observed.

Tom Manke thanked the Board of Education for offering additional classes that will allow students to obtain employment after graduation. He remarked that his Facebook page has received a lot of positive comments and support for the Owosso High School welding program.

Tom Manke stated that two adults were arraigned earlier that day for robbing two young students who were going home after Friday night's football game. He remarked that this is the first and hopefully the last time that this occurs.

### **For Action**

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Paez to approve the August 27, 2018 regular meeting minutes, September 10, 2018 committee of the whole meeting minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Mowen to approve the out-of-state travel by Owosso High School students to attend and compete in the VE Southern Regional Trade Show in Pigeon Forge, TN on November 18-21, 2018 and the VE Great Lakes Trade Show in Chicago, IL on January 30-February 1, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnický to approve the out-of-state travel of an Owosso High School agri-science student to attend and participate in the 2018 Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa on October 17-20, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnický, supported by Mowen to authorize the Superintendent to sign the proposed Purchase of Service Agreement between Capital Area Community Services, Head Start and Owosso Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Krauss to approve the out-of-state travel for approximately 50 fine arts students and staff to Chicago, IL to see Hamilton on October 17, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to authorize the Superintendent to sign contracts with the contractors as presented for the area of work delineated and authorize the Superintendent to approve any contingencies of 6.5% and general condition work up to 2% of the overall contract work not to exceed \$ 3,445,802. Mr. Gary Stellar of Clark Construction commented that each of the bidders has all of the required work covered completely as put out in the bid documents and they are comfortable with the quoted bids. He stated that overall, they received very good bid coverage from reputable contractors. Mr. Stellar informed the Board that they are looking to begin work in mid-October, pending the receipt of permits from the State. Trustee Ty Krauss asked if there were any local bids submitted. In response to Mr. Krauss's question, Mr. Stellar stated that they did receive some local bids and the Board will approve a bid from High Quality Glass during the October 22 Board meeting. Secretary Ochodnický conducted a roll call vote: Ayes: Paez, Ochodnický, Mowen, Jenc, Keyes, Krauss. Nays: none. Trustee Webster was absent. Motion carried unanimously.

### **For Future Action**

- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel for the Owosso High School Trojan Marching Band trip to Disney World and Universal Studios in Orlando, FL on March 14-20, 2019. The students will spend four and one-half days at Disney World and Universal Studios participating in the Magic Kingdom Parade as well as participating in "You're Instrumental" workshops. Jordan Sterk informed the Board that the cost per student to participate on the trip is \$1,258.
- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to sign awarding contracts for elementary bond work that needs to commence subsequent to October 22, 2018 for contingencies of 6.5% and general condition work up to 2% of the overall contract work not to exceed \$833,111. It should be noted that there are three work areas and an estimate from Clark Construction that will remain to be recommended to the Board if action is taken by the Board on the work areas outlined and as presented (carpet and resilient flooring, painting, and wall coverings, food service equipment and chain link fencing).

### **For Information**

Superintendent Tuttle reported that Zachary Roberts has accepted the Food Service position at Bryant Elementary School.

### **Public Participation**

Tom Manke commented that he understands that the District had to accept bids as they did. Since the District is spending tax payer money on the bond project, he suggested that a press release go out to the media explaining why contractors outside of the county were hired.

In response to Mr. Manke's comments, Superintendent Tuttle explained that laws are very strict for school bond projects and the District has complied with these laws as required. She informed him that only two local contractors submitted bids for the project and one of the companies was hired.

### **Board Member Comments/Updates**

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki remarked that she represents the Board of Education at the bond committee meetings. The one item that is discussed during all of the meetings is how the money is being spent. Mr. Gary Stellar of Clark Construction has assisted the committee with staying within the budget from the very beginning of the planning. The bond committee has put many hours into making the right decisions and wants to support local companies; however, many of these local businesses cannot support the magnitude of the bond project. Mrs. Ochodnicki stated that she feels that the entire process has been very fair and rigorous. She commended the bond committee for being cognizant of what is right for the District and community.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki reported that 125-150 people attended the Alliance for A Drug Free Shiawassee meeting at Owosso High School. She thanked the high school administrative team for hosting the county-wide event. Judge Matt Stewart was applauded for leading the drug court team. Mrs. Ochodnicki stated the Alliance for a Drug Free Shiawassee meets at the SRES in Corunna on the first Thursday of every month at 5:30 pm and new members are welcome to attend the meetings.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki remarked that although she was unable to attend the Salute Our Soldiers Veteran's Tribute, she has heard nothing but positive comments from members of the local VFW and American Legion. The veterans hope that this becomes an annual event.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki announced that the girls' varsity swim team is undefeated. The team took fourth in their conference meet, in spite of the teams having twice as many girls that took first and second place. Mrs. Ochodnicki stated that she is very proud of the team.

Vice President Rick Mowen commented that after watching the Trojan Marching Band perform at a multitude of events, it's hard to imagine how old their uniforms are. He praised the Band Boosters, parents and students for taking great care of the uniforms. Mr. Mowen also remarked that he is amazed by how much the uniforms cost when compared to the cost a few years ago.

Trustee Ty Krauss thanked all of those involved in organizing the out-of-state trips for students and the Board for supporting these. He remarked that his daughter was fortunate to be able to participate in several of the trips when she attended OPS. The trips provide great educational opportunities and are fun for the kids.

Trustee Sara Keyes stated that she also attended the Alliance for a Drug Free Shiawassee parent meeting. She commented that the meeting was very eye opening and scary. She encouraged other parents to attend the monthly meetings. Educating parents and students at young age is vital to stopping drug usage before it begins.

### **Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:**

October 8: Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5 pm

October 22: Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 pm

### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

September 26: Academic Achievement Awards Ceremony at OHS, 7 pm

September 28: Half Day for All Students and Professional Development in the Afternoon  
September 28: Professional Development Day, 12 – 3:45 pm  
October 3: Pupil Count Day  
October 8: MSBOA District Band Festival at Willman Field  
October 10: Powder Puff Football Game at Willman Field, 7 pm  
October 11: Fifth Grade Concert at Central Elementary, 7 pm  
October 12: Homecoming Parade, 6 pm  
October 12: Homecoming Football Game at Willman Field, 7 pm  
October 13: Homecoming Dance at OHS, 7 pm  
October 15: MSBOA District Band Festival – Rain Date  
October 16: Fifth Grade Concert at Emerson Elementary, 7 pm  
October 17: Choir Concert at OHS, 7 pm  
October 18: Half Day for Elementary Only – Afternoon and Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences  
October 19: End of First Marking Period

**Adjournment**

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicki to adjourn at 6:27 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

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Shelly Ochodnicki, Secretary